Sixtieth Anniversary

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Easton, Pennsylvania

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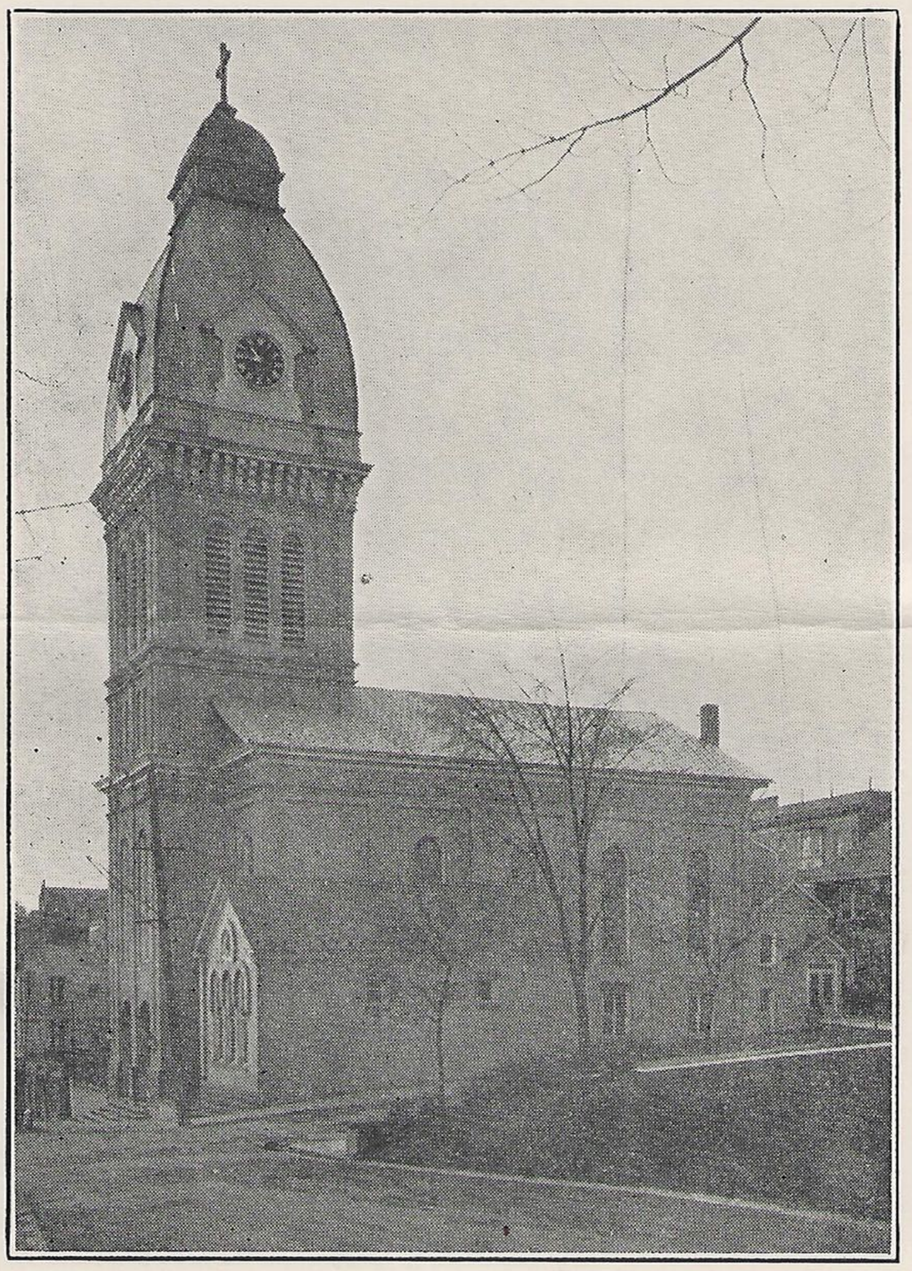
FIFTH AND CHURCH STREETS

EASTON, PA.

1870 *1930*



"Whosoever thou art that enterest this church, leave it not without one prayer to God for thyself, for those who minister, and for those who worship here."

WALTER C. G. VEIT, *Pastor*

516 Church Street Telephone 127

The Service

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

NOVEMBER 2, 1930

MORNING SERVICE
10 A. M.

Organ Prelude—Marche Romaine ..... *Charles Gounod*
Processional 202, Kirchenbuch—9
The Service, page 9
The Introit and Collect, page 145
The Epistle: Ephesians 5: 15-21
Anthem—The Lord is My Light .....*Parker*
The Gospel: Matthew 22: 1-14
Solo: Like as a Hart Desireth .....*Allitsen*
Mrs. Cowley

Hymn 439, Kirchenbuch 488
Die Predigt: Prof. Dr. H. Offermann
Hymn 283, Kirchenbuch 448
The Sermon: Dr. Ernst P. Pfatteicher
The Offertory, page 18
The Prayer
Anthem—Rock of Ages .....*Dudley Buck*
Benediction
Recessional 239
Silent Prayer
Postlude—Anniversary March .....*J. L. Erb*

ORGAN RECITAL
7:10 P. M.

a. Prelude—Carillon—Amedee .....*Tremblay*
b. The Voice of the Chimes .....*A. Luigini*

c. Elizabeth's Prayer from "Tannhaeuser"
Richard Wagner

d. Andante in G "The Pilgrim's Song of Hope"
Edourd Batiste

EVENING SERVICE

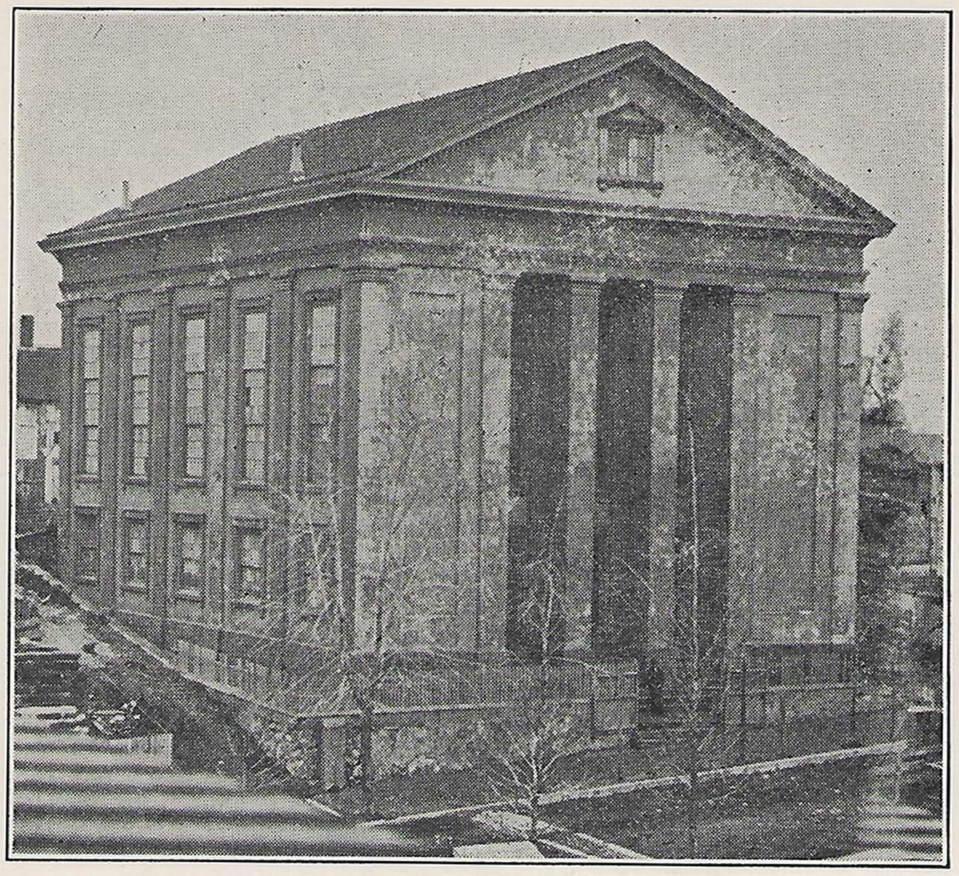
7:30 P. M.

Organ Prelude—Prelude .....*Giovanni Bolzoni*
Processional—224
Order of Service, Page 40
Psalm 122, page 235
Anthem—Except the Lord Build the House .....*Gilchrist*
The Lessons
Solo: Come, Ye Blessed .....*Scott*
Mrs. Seiple
Hymn 243
Sermon: Rev. Dr. J. C. Mattes
Offertory—Romance .....*Andre Benoist*
Anthem—Peace I Leave with You .....*Roberts*
Service page 42
Benediction
Recessional, 463
Silent Prayer
Postlude—Allegro Maestoso .....*John E. West*

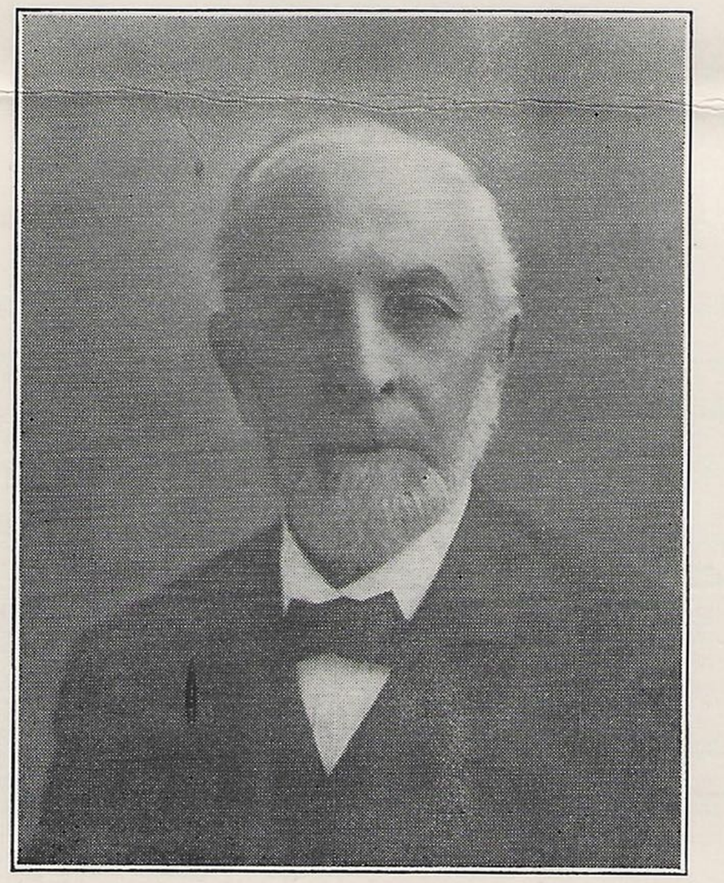
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

VESPERS, 7:45 P. M.

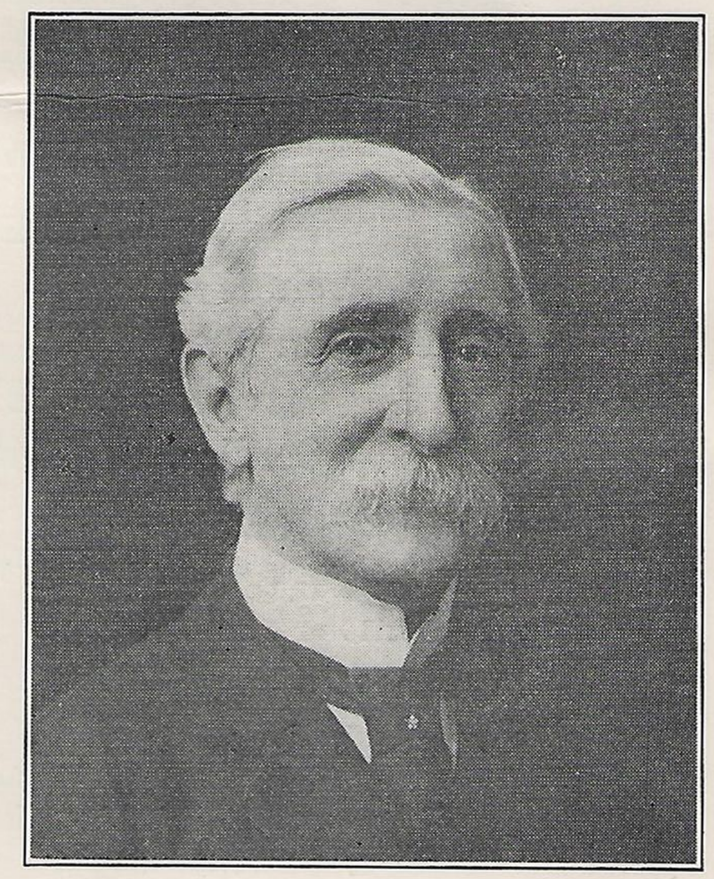
Organ Prelude
Processional 276
Opening Service, Rev. E. J. Heilman
Order of Service, page 40
Psalm 95, page 222
The Lessons—Rev. C. W. Schaffer
Anthem: Fear Not, O Israel .....*Spicker*
Hymn 565
Greetings by: Rev. F. K. Fretz, Rev. P. B. Wolper, Rev. A. P. Grammes.
Offertory
Anthem: The Long Day Closes .....*Sullivan*
Closing Service—Rev. C. Rahn
Service, page 42
Benediction
Recessional 437
Silent Prayer
Postlude



The church as it looked sixty years ago when it was bought by the fathers from the Protestant Dutch Reformed congregation.

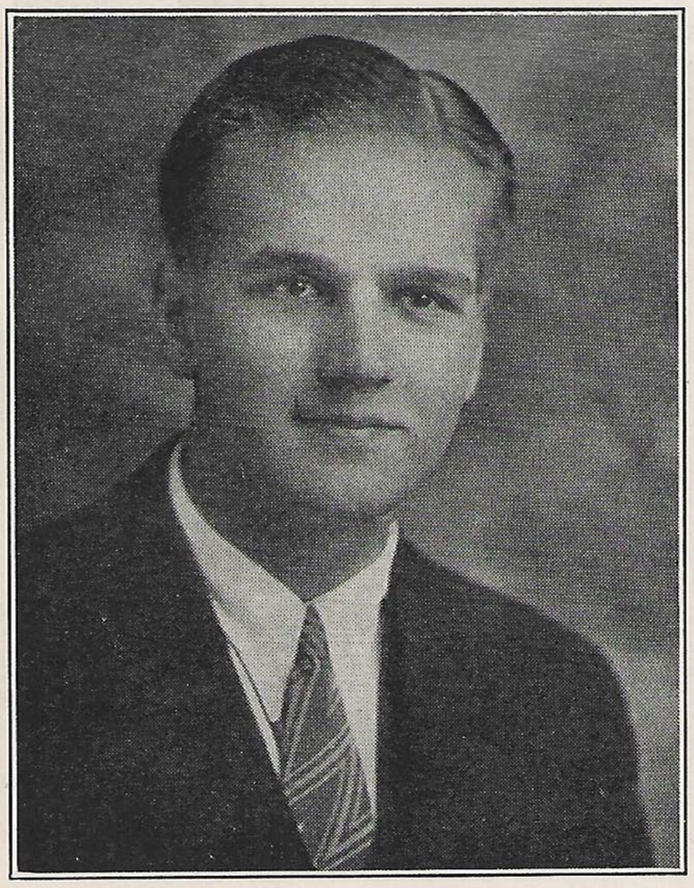


REV. PHILIP PFATTEICHER,
the beloved first Pastor of Zion.



MR. HENRY L. MATTES,
First organist, member of the first Church Council, treasurer for a number of years. active on many committees in the early history of the congregation.

REV. WALTER C. G. VEIT,
the present Pastor.



WATSON STEENBURGH,
the present organist.

THOMAS E. YERGER,
the present choir-master.

Brief Historical Sketch of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The history of the Lutheran Church in Easton and vicinity goes back very far in the history of our country. Among the first settlers in this vicinity no doubt were many of the Lutheran faith. Many years before the Declaration of Independence was signed these Lutheran settlers gathered to worship God according to the faith of the Augsburg Confession. As early as 1702 or 1703 Pastor Andrew Rudman, a Swedish minister, visited the scattered Lutherans in this vicinity. At that time he served the Dutch congregation in New York. Although a Swede by birth, Pastor Rudman ministered to his brethren in the faith not only in his native tongue, but also in German and Dutch. Casper Stoever, Jr., a Lutheran Pastor, also visited Easton at an early date and under him the settlers at the Forks of the Delaware were gathered into several small congregations on, or before 1730. The first church was located on the Philadelphia road, near the present reservoir of the South Easton Water Company. This was known as "The Congregation on the Delaware River belonging to the Lutheran Religion." In 1740 the Rev. John Birkenstock began his ministry in and near Easton. This date marks the beginning of the official history of the Lutheran Church at the Forks of the Delaware.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, known as the Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America, from the year 1745 on visited the congregations at Easton and Saucon every four weeks until the second Pastor, Rudolph H. Schrenk, who resided in this section, took charge of the congregation.

The date when the first Lutheran church building was erected in the town of Easton is given as 1763. This building stood on the west side of Pomfret (now Third) street a short distance south of Ferry. The Lutherans occupied this building until the completion of the Union (Lutheran and Reformed) church at the corner of Third and Church streets in 1776. This church was used by the two denominations until January 1, 1832, when the Lutheran portion of the congregation under the name of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, occupied their newly erected church building on Ferry Street. Here the different elements of the congregation, the early German settlers, their descendants, who in course of time naturally adopted the English language, and the later German immigrants, worshipped God. The language of the services had become almost entirely English. In the earlier days of the Union church on North Third Street, the German language only was used in the ser-

vices and the congregations were known as the German Lutheran and the German Reformed. Because of the large immigration from Central Europe during the Fifties, the German portion of the congregation increased and with it the necessity was felt of securing an assistant who should minister to the German portion of the congregation. Consequently in 1860 during the pastorate at St. John's of Rev. Benjamin Sadtler, D. D., the Rev. Philip Pfatteicher was chosen as assistant. Rev. Pfatteicher began his ministry on August 13, 1860. Three years later the organization of a congregation using the German language was proposed. On November 23, 1863, the Council of St. John's Church passed a resolution in which they expressed the opinion that they deemed it important and for the welfare of the congregation that a new church be built for the use of those members who in their worship prefer the German language, and decided that at the first meeting after January 1, 1864, a committee be appointed, to have the necessary act passed to sell so much of the cemetery as the committee finds necessary to secure money to build a church for the members who prefer the German language. On June 10, 1867, a meeting of the congregation was held to decide whether or not the grave-yard should be sold, but 38 voted against and 22 for the sale. Then a committee was appointed to examine further into the matter and to report at a later meeting of the congregation. This meeting of the congregation was held February 3, 1868, and the following resolution passed: "Resolved, That feeling the urgent necessity of another church, we will take steps to sell a portion of the grave-yard and that the proceeds, after carefully removing and re-interring the dead thereon, be applied towards the purchase and erection of a church for the German portion of the congregation." Ninety voted in favor and twenty against selling the grave-yard. Then a motion was passed: "That the vestry be empowered to secure from the legislature as soon as possible an act authorizing the sale of said ground."

On August 31, 1868, the German portion of the congregation was invited to meet with the vestry and this resolution passed: "That we as a vestry recommend to the German portion of the church that they organize themselves as a German Lutheran Church under the proposition made by the vestry and that they be allowed time until the 1st day of October, 1868, to accomplish this end and notify the vestry of this fact."

On September 19, 1870, a meeting of the congregation was held and the following action taken: "Whereas, the remains of the dead have been removed from the old grave-yard belonging to this congregation and the ground has been sold to the Board of Control of this borough, and whereas, the German

members of this congregation are of the opinion that they are entitled to more than the net proceeds of the sale of the grave-yard, as an equivalent for their withdrawal from the present organization, and their relinquishment of all their rights and title to the property of this congregation, therefore,

Resolved, That we the English members of this congregation in general meeting assembled, do hereby authorize, empower and instruct the vestry to pay out of the funds of the congregation the expenses incurred in the removal of the dead from the grave-yard and all other expenses made necessary in order to give a good and perfect title to the ground sold, so that the amount herein after specified may be donated to the securing of suitable church property for the said German members. Provided 1. That the German members of this congregation shall affect an organization as a distinct congregation before January 1, 1871. Provided 2, That on and after January 1, 1871, divine service in the German language on Sunday shall be held in the afternoon. Provided 3, That the free use of this church for services in the German language shall continue if desired until January 1, 1872, and no longer.

Resolved, That one-half of the proceeds of the sale of the grave-yard, to wit: $10,125.00, shall be appropriated and expended at any time desired after this date for the purpose specified and the balance, to wit: $10,125.00, in one year from this date."

Now the minutes of Zion's congregation begin, namely, on October 10, 1870. On this date a meeting of the German portion of St. John's Church was held and the following action taken:

"Whereas, the English part of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church through its vestry, by resolutions which are before us, has offered us the sum of $20,250.00 as our portion of the present church, therefore to avoid all further difficulties, be it

Resolved 1, That we accept this offer.
Resolved 2, That we organize as soon as possible.

At this meeting a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws and was asked to present these articles to the next meeting. Then also a committee was appointed to secure a suitable lot for a church.

At the meeting of the congregation on October 17, 1870, the constitution and by-laws as they had been drawn up by the committee, were unanimously adopted. This date then marks the organization of our church under the name and title "Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Easton."

On October 24, 1870, the following were elected by the congregation as the members of the first vestry: Henry L. Mattes, John C. Ruef, Christian Ippich, Josiah Siegfried, William Schlechter, Owen Seibert, Ferdinand Haertel, John Gomringer, Frederick Muller, Alfred Mebus, Andrew Pickel, William F. Schlechter. On October 30, 1870, the vestry was installed.

Rev. P. Pfatteicher was unanimously elected as Pastor of the newly organized congregation on November 14, 1870. During the ten years previous he had served as assistant pastor of St. John's Church. At this meeting the committee which had been authorized to look after the purchase of a suitable place of worship reported that it had bought the church of the Protestant Dutch Reformed congregation on North Fifth street for the sum of $10,000. This church had been built in 1852 during the pastorate of Rev. J. H. Mason Knox at a cost of $16,000.00.

The act of separation from St. John's was completed on December 19, 1870. Under that date the following entry in the minutes of the vestry of St. John's is found. "The dismission of these members completes the important work of the division of the congregation which by the grace of God was accomplished in peace. May it forever redown to His glory and to the promotion of His Kingdom on earth and may both congregations attain success beyond their most sanguine anticipations." To this is added the note: "On the afternoon of Sunday, December 25, 1870, the Germans until recently members of this congregation, held their last service in this church."

On January 1, 1871, the first service was held in the new church. It was by no means a small body which united with the new congregation. Two hundred and seventy-nine adult male members had received an honorable dismission from the vestry of St. John's to the newly organized Zion's congregation. The congregation grew rapidly and remodeling of the edifice was found necessary. Extensive changes were made in the interior. The chancel was rearranged and re-fitted with new furniture; the walls and ceilings were rebuilt and the Sunday School enlarged and refitted, the tower, 180 feet high ,was added and an extension built for an organ chamber. An organ built by Stanbridge Bros., Philadelphia at a cost of $3,800.00, was installed, and a bell purchased at a cost of $546.00. These improvements consumed a long time and it was only at the meeting of the Council on November 23, 1872, that the president reported that the church had been completed and was ready for dedication. At the Advent festival on December 8, 1872, the church was rededicated.

On August 13, 1878, the city clock was placed into the tower of the church.

In 1895 the brick structure, adjoining the church to the north, was built for the use of the primary department of the Sunday School. The interior of the church was re-frescoed in 1905 and a new lighting system added. On April 16th of that year a reunion of those confirmed by Rev. Pfatteicher since 1870 was held. This was an inspiring service and is still fresh in the memory of those who were privileged to attend. Rev. Pfatteicher at that time reported that he had confirmed 1083 in Zion. During the year 1908 a new heating plant was installed at an outlay of $1,195.00.

At the meeting of the Church Council, June 21, 1909, it was decided to publish a parish paper. The first issue is dated October 1909, and bears the name "Zion's Bote." At first the paper was published quarterly and was entirely in the German language. Beginning with July 1915 it was published monthly and since March 1919 it appears in its present form as "Zion Church Messenger." Beginning with the first Sunday in November 1929 the weekly bulletin is published and since then the "Messenger" is printed quarterly.

At a special meeting of the congregation held on July 5, 1910, the Church Council was authorized to purchase the house and lot adjoining the church property to the west, at 516 Church Street, for the sum of $2,600.00 for the purpose of erecting a parsonage thereon. During the summer of 1915 the commodious and well appointed personage was built at a cost of $6,584.00. On October 22, 1915 the pastor and his family moved into the new parsonage.

The fortieth anniversary of the founding of our church was observed by special services on November 6, 7, 8, 1910. The guest preachers at these special services were: Rev. F. Veit, father of the pastor; Dr. Ernst Pfatteicher, Rev. Orr, Dr. J. Stump, Dr. J. C. Seegers, Rev. H. Seneker. A jubilee offering of $542.00 was gathered on this occasion.

In the spring of 1912 the white altar vestments, made by the deaconesses of the Mother House in Neuendettelsau, Germany, were presented to the congregation by the Luther League.

The first early morning Christmas service was held on Christmas day 1912 and since then has become an established custom. In the same year the first New Year's eve watchnight service, closing at midnight, was held. The first Every-Member-Visitation was conducted on February 22, 1914 and has been continued annually since then. Since March 1921 the weekly duplex en-

velopes are in use for the gathering of the current funds and benevolences of the church.

During September 1916 the sessions of the Sunday school had to be omitted because of an epidemic of infantile paralysis. In the Fall of 1918 another interruption of the sessions of the Sunday school and of the church services was made necessary because of the influenza epidemic.

On the evening of Sunday, June 24, 1917 a farewell service was held in our church for the Easton Guards, Company L, 4th Regiment National Guards of Pennsylvania, who were soon thereafter to leave for active service in the World War.

At a special meeting of the Council, August 1, 1917, it was decided that our choir be vested and beginning with the services on Christmas day 1917 choir robes are in use.

By resolution of the Church Council at its meeting held on March 18, 1918 the Endowment Fund of our Church was started. This action was sanctioned at the annual meeting of the congregation on April 21, 1919. In accordance with the regulations governing this Fund, it shall consist of all legacies and bequests left to the congregation; any sums added to it by gifts from individuals, by special collections, or which may be placed in it by the Church Council. The principal of this Fund shall be permanently invested, and never used even temporarily, for any other purpose. The interest accruing from it shall alone be used for the ordinary expenses of the congregation. The value of this Fund at present is $4,775.77.

On Sunday, June 2, 1918, the present schedule of morning services was begun, namely, a service in the English language at 10 o'clock and a service in the German language at 11 o'clock. The Church Council authorized this change at its meeting held May 19, 1918.

The brass cross and vases for our altar were placed as memorials in 1910; the brass candlesticks also as memorials in 1920 and the brass offering plates and alms basin likewise as memorials in 1921.

The purchase of a new organ was authorized at a special meeting of the congregation held December 29, 1919, and the contract for the new instrument was signed on January 16, 1920. This instrument, a three manual electro-pneumatic pipe organ, was built by M. P. Moeller, Hagerstown, Md., at a cost of $9,750.00, less $2,000.00 cash allowance for the old organ. On Sun-

day May 22, 1921 the organ was dedicated. Mr. Thomas E. Yerger presided at the organ during the dedication services.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our church was observed October 17 and 18, 1920. The guest preachers were: Rev. P. Kirchner, Rev. L. D. Lazarus, Dr. E. Pfatteicher on Sunday and on Monday evening the following brought greetings: Dr. F. K. Fretz, Rev. Paul J. Neff, Rev. D. Burt Smith, Rev. E. J. Heilman and Judge Russell C. Stewart.

During August 1922 the Sunday school room was renovated at an outlay of more than $2,000.00. This expense was defrayed by the school itself.

The new Common Service Book and Hymnal was introduced in April 1923.

At a special meeting of the congregation held October 15, 1923 an amendment to the charter of the congregation was unanimously approved and a new constitution and by-laws were also adopted.

The most recent undertaking of our congregation was the renovation of the entire church property, which in the course of years became very necessary and which was authorized at a special meeting of the congregation held January 10, 1926. During the summer and autumn of 1926 this work was carried out at an outlay of $33,000.00, which amount exceeds the cost of the building and property when first bought by the fathers from the Dutch Reformed congregation in the year 1870. This big undertaking was made possible because of the interest and sincere co-operation on the part of a large group of our loyal and devoted members. The re-dedication services were held on December 19, 1926 and the following pastors took part: Prof. Dr. J. C. Seegers, Prof. C. T. Benze, Dr. J. C. Mattes, Dr. Ernst Pfatteicher, Dr. Preston Laury, Dr. F. K. Fretz, Rev. A. P. Grammes.

During the sixty years of its existence this congregation has had but two pastors. Rev. Phillip Pfatteicher, of blessed memory, was the beloved pastor of Zion from the time of organization until his death on September 18, 1908. Previously he had served the same people as the assistant pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church for a period of ten years. Pastor Pfatteicher therefore had the distinction seldom attained, namely of serving the same flock during a period of more than forty-eight years.

Rev. Pfatteicher was very ably assisted in his work by his wife, Mrs. Emma Spaeth Pfatteicher. Mrs. Pfatteicher used her fine talents of leadership

and consecration in the cause of the Master not only in all of the activities of the local congregation, but also in the community and in the larger work of the Church. The memory of these two devoted servants of the Master is honored in Zion and many hearts on this sixtieth anniversary acknowledge with gratitude their many years of consecrated service in this congregation and in the homes of its members. "Die Lehrer aber werden leuchten wie des Himmels Glanz; und die, so viele zur Gerechtigkeit weisen, wie die Sterne immer und ewiglich."

The present pastor has been ministering to the congregation since February 1, 1909. He was elected as pastor at a special meeting of the congregation on December 7, 1908. The installation took place on Sunday, February 7, 1909 at the morning service. The Rev. James F. Lambert, at the time President of the Allentown Conference, performed the act of installation assisted by the Rev. Dr. William Wackernagel, who had served as the supply pastor during the interim.

During these sixty years the congregation has had a large number of faithful workers and helpers in the Church Council, the Sunday school, the Ladies' Aid Society, the Missionary Society, the Luther League, the Choir, and during the last few years in the Young Women's Missionary Society and the Light Brigade and the Sunday school orchestra. They did their work in their day and generation and have handed down to us of the present a great work. "Other men labored and ye are entered into their labors." We who are active in the work of the congregation today are reaping the fruits of the faithful workers of the past and upon us is laid the responsibility and the privilege of doing our work in this portion of the Master's Vineyard with fidelity and zeal.

The following have served as secretaries of the congregation and the Church Council: Emil E. Rinn, Joseph Flad, John E. Ruef, William Siebler, Henry C. Gerber, Carl Pickel, Sr., Clarence O. Mahn, Carl Pickel, Jr. These men served as treasurers: Josiah Siegfried, Owen Seibert, Christian Franklin, Henry L. Mattes, Christian Bach, Henry A. Seibel, A. Thurman Schlabach, Russell Merwarth. The superintendents of the Sunday school were: John Teichman, John Ruef, William F. Schlechter, Henry L. Mattes, Josiah Siegfried, Henry Snyder, Herman Miller, Rev. P. Pfatteicher, Mrs. E. Pfatteicher, Walter C. G. Veit. The organists were: Henry L. Mattes, Charles Bethman, Davis Minnich, Percy Wagner, James Beam, Thomas E. Yerger, Wilfred Freeman, William A. Valentine, Raymond Moore, Watson Steenburgh.

The following sons of the congregation are in the Gospel ministry: The Rev. Ernst P. Pfatteicher, Ph.D., D.D., since June 9, 1926, President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. The Rev. John C. Mattes, D.D., Pastor of Trinity Church, Scranton, Pa. This congregation also claims in part the Rev. Charles A. Dennig, Pastor of the Lutheran Church in Warren, Pa., who received his early training in this church but was confirmed in St. John's Church.

The records of the church show that during these sixty years the following number of ministerial acts were performed. Baptisms, 2,697; Confirmations, 1,565; Marriages, 779; Funerals, 1,239.

Since its organization the congregation has been a member of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and has always taken an active part in the work of the Church.

What has been recorded thus far refers principally to the external work and development of the congregation, and its present status is evidence of the fact that there has been a steady growth and development. But more important by far than this external progress is the true inner life of a congregation, the growth of the members in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. And what that has been He who "is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" alone knows. But where in a congregation for many years the Word of God has been taught in its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered according to the institution of Christ, and sinsick souls in repentance and faith have looked to Jesus, there the blessing of God cannot fail, for His promise remains unshaken; "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaah 55:10,11.

Church Directory

ELDERS

J. A. Miller, *Vice President*
Carl Pickel, Sr.
J. C. Walter
John Schaible
Russell Merwarth, *Treasurer*
Carl Pickel, Jr., *Secretary*
Choir Master: Thomas E. Yerger

DEACONS

Norman Peil
Carl Schaad
Howard Miller
Max Funk
Henry Buenning
George L. Seibel
Organist: Watson Steenburgh

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent: The Pastor
Superintendent Primary Department: Mrs. J. C. Walter
Recording Secretary: Miss Hilda Schuch
Treasurer: Miss Esther Bellmer
Secretaries: J. C. Walter, Russell Merwarth, Harry Kirchgassner.
Pianists: Miss Elizabeth Ottenbacher, Mrs. J. Houser
Orchestra Leader: George Thoma.

THE LADIES AID SOCIETY

Vice-President: Mrs. F. Ruf
Secretary: Mrs. W. Veit — *Treasurer:* Mrs. W. Gray

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

President: Mrs. J. C. Walter — *Secretary:* Mrs. J. J. Curns
Vice-President: Mrs. W. Veit — *Assistant Secretary:* Mrs. F. Yutz
Treasurer: Miss Mary Gelpke

YOUNG WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY—*(Adviser)*

Mrs. H. Fortner

LIGHT BRIGADE—*(Adviser)*

Mrs. R. Merwarth

LUTHER LEAGUE

President: Frederic Funk — *Secretary:* Miss Bertha Switzgable
Vice-President: John Gregory — *Treasurer:* Edward Linge

THE CHOIR

President: Harry Schumacher — *Treasurer:* Mrs. Claire McGuire
Vice-President: Franklin Yutz — *Adviser:* Dean Newman
Secretary: Mrs. J. Cowley — *Librarian:* George Fox
Sexton: Ernest Stem